

### ***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1        1.     [Currently amended] Method for processing a client  
2        session request received at a server, comprising the steps  
3        of:

4           negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
5           connection-oriented connection of said server with said  
6           client;

7           said server inviting said client to submit user  
8           variables;

9           responsive to receiving a user variable requesting a  
10          custom confirmation record received at said server from  
11          said client, said server sending to said client a  
12          confirmation record and custom record data for enabling  
13          said client to engage in subsequent programmable  
14          negotiations directly with said server.

1        2.     [Original]        The method of claim 1, said negotiating,

2     inviting, and sending steps executing within the application  
3     layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

1     3.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, further  
2     comprising the step responsive to a user variable requesting  
3     a confirmation record, sending to said client a confirmation  
4     record without said custom record data.

1     4.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, said confirmation  
2     record including a field defining a pass through data  
3     length, said pass through data including said confirmation  
4     record and said custom record data.

1     5.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, further  
2     comprising the step of appending said custom record data to  
3     said confirmation record.

1     6.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, said request  
2     being for a default custom confirmation record, and further  
3     comprising the step of sending to said client default data  
4     in said custom record data.

1     7.     [Original]       The method of claim 1, said request  
2     being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request

3 including a list of one or more predefined information  
4 items, further comprising the step of sending to said client  
5 defined data in said custom record data.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 7, said sending step  
2 including executing a customer defined exit program on said  
3 list to generate said defined data.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 4, further  
2 comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3 indicia identifying a device allocated by a host server.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 4, further  
2 comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3 indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated  
4 by a host server.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 4, further  
2 comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3 indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current  
4 session by a host.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 4, further  
2 comprising the step of providing in said custom record data

3       indicia identifying a physical location for receiving  
4       output.

1       13. [Original]       The method of claim 4, further  
2       comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3       indicia identifying system security level and password  
4       encryption requirements.

1       14. [Original]       The method of claim 4, further  
2       comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3       indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected  
4       request.

1       15. [Original]       The method of claim 4, further  
2       comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3       indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon  
4       request.

1       16. [Original]       The method of claim 4, further  
2       comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3       indicia identifying a reason for denial of session  
4       connection request upon system overload and redirection to  
5       an alternate time or host.

1     17. [Original]       The method of claim 4, further  
2     comprising the step of providing in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by  
4     said client.

1     18. [Currently amended] A client/server system, comprising:  
  
2         a custom confirmation record;  
  
3         a user exit program running on said server;  
  
4         said client operating in conjunction with said user  
5         exit program for requesting said custom confirmation  
6         record from said server, and responsive thereto for  
7         engaging in subsequent client/server negotiations.

1     19. [Original]       The system of claim 18, said client  
2     being a Telnet client.

1     20. [Original]       The system of claim 18, further  
2     comprising:

3         said client being selectively operable for negotiating

4           a send-custom-confirmation-record with a 'yes', 'no' or  
5           defined data value; and

6           said user exit interpret said data value and sending  
7           default or defined information back to said client in  
8           said custom confirmation record.

1       21. [Original]       The system of claim 20, said custom  
2       confirmation record containing diagnostic information  
3       provided by said server along with custom information  
4       provided by said user exit program.

1       22. [Original]       The system of claim 21, said custom  
2       information being provided by user exit programs executing  
3       in said server and said client.

1       23. [Currently amended] A method for operating a client to  
2       establish a network connection with a server, comprising the  
3       steps of:

4           negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
5           connection-oriented connection with said server;

6           said parameters including a request for said server to

7           provide a custom confirmation record; and  
  
8           responsive to said request, receiving said confirmation  
9           record at said client and engaging in subsequent  
10          programmable negotiations directly with said server.

1       24. [Original]       The method of claim 23, said custom  
2       confirmation record including return code, system name,  
3       device name and custom data.

1       25. [Original]       The method of claim 24, further  
2       comprising the steps of:

3           operating said server to request a custom information  
4           record from said client.

1       26. [Original]       The method of claim 25, said request  
2       comprising an invitation to said client from said server to  
3       respond with all environment variables.

1       27. [Original]       The method of claim 26, said client  
2       responding to said invitation by returning a custom  
3       information record as part of said environment variables.

1     28. [Original]       The method of claim 27, said client  
2     responding to said invitation with a request that said  
3     server return to said client a custom confirmation record.

1     29. [Original]       The method of claim 28, further the  
2     steps of

3         operating an exit program to interpret the value in  
4         said custom information record to selectively return a  
5         custom confirmation record response.

1     30. [Original]       The method of claim 28, further  
2     comprising the steps of specifying in said custom  
3     confirmation record a list of custom fields to be returned  
4     by said server.

1     31. [Original]       The method of claim 28, further  
2     comprising the steps of specifying in said custom  
3     confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing  
4     and processing by said server, an exit program, or an  
5     independent job.

1     32. [Currently amended] Method for operating a client to  
2     establish a network connection with a server, comprising the



3 steps of:

4 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
5 connection-oriented connection with said server;

6 receiving from said server an invitation to submit user  
7 variables;

8 responsive to sending to said server a user variable  
9 requesting a custom confirmation record, receiving at  
10 said client from said server a confirmation record and  
11 custom record data for enabling said client to engage  
12 in subsequent negotiations directly with said server.

1 33. [Original] The method of claim 32, said  
2 negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing within  
3 the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

1 34. [Original] The method of claim 32, further  
2 comprising the step responsive to said invitation to submit  
3 user variables, requesting a confirmation record, and  
4 responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation  
5 record without said custom record data.

1     35. [Original]     The method of claim 32, said  
2     confirmation record including a field defining a pass  
3     through data length, said pass through data including said  
4     confirmation record and said custom record data.

1     36. [Original]     The method of claim 32, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving said custom record data  
3     appended to said confirmation record.

1     37. [Original]     The method of claim 32, said request  
2     being for a default custom confirmation record, and further  
3     comprising the step of receiving from said server, default  
4     data in said custom record data.

1     38. [Original]     The method of claim 32, said request  
2     being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request  
3     including a list of one or more predefined information  
4     items, further comprising the step of receiving from said  
5     server, client defined data in said custom record data.

1     39. [Original]     The method of claim 38, further  
2     including the step of providing to said server a customer  
3     defined exit program for parsing said list to generate said  
4     defined data.

1     40. [Original]     The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying a device allocated by a host server.

1     41. [Original]     The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated  
4     by a host server.

1     42. [Original]     The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current  
4     session by a host.

1     43. [Original]     The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying a physical location for receiving  
4     output.

1     44. [Original]     The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying system security level and password  
4     encryption requirements.

1     45. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected  
4     request.

1     46. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon  
4     request.

1     47. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying a reason for denial of session  
4     connection request upon system overload and redirection to  
5     an alternate time or host.

1     48. [Original]       The method of claim 35, further  
2     comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data  
3     indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by  
4     said client.

1     49. [Currently amended] A client system for establishing a  
2     network connection with a server, comprising:

3       a first logic element for negotiating environment  
4       parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
5       connection with said server;

6       said parameters including a request for said server to  
7       provide a custom confirmation record to said client;  
8       and

9       a second logic element responsive to said request, for  
10      receiving said confirmation record for enabling said  
11      client to engage in subsequent programmable  
12      negotiations with said server.

1   50. [Original]       The system of claim 49, said custom  
2   confirmation record including return code, system name,  
3   device name and custom data.

1   51. [Original]       The system of claim 50, further  
2   comprising:

3       a third logic element for operating said server to  
4       request a custom information record from said client.

1   52. [Original]       The system of claim 51, said request

2 comprising an invitation to said client from said server to  
3 respond with all environment variables.

1 53. [Original] The system of claim 52, said client  
2 further comprising a fourth logic element for responding to  
3 said invitation by returning a custom information record as  
4 part of said environment variables.

1 54. [Original] The system of claim 53, said client  
2 further comprising a fifth logic element for responding to  
3 said invitation with a request that said server return to  
4 said client a custom confirmation record.

1 55. [Original] The system of claim 54, said server  
2 further comprising an exit program for interpreting the  
3 value in said custom information record to selectively  
4 return a custom confirmation record response.

1 56. [Original] The system of claim 54, further  
2 comprising a logic element for specifying a list of custom  
3 fields to be returned by said server in said custom  
4 confirmation record.

5 57. [Original] The system of claim 54, further

6 comprising a logic element for specifying in said custom  
7 confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing  
8 and processing by said server, an exit program, or an  
9 independent job.

1 58. [Currently amended] System for processing a client  
2 session request, comprising:

3 a logic element for negotiating environment parameters  
4 for establishing a connection-oriented connection with  
5 said client and inviting said client to submit user  
6 variables; and

7 an exit program responsive to receiving a user variable  
8 from said client requesting a custom confirmation  
9 record for sending to said client a confirmation record  
10 and custom record data for enabling said client to  
11 engage in subsequent programmable negotiations directly  
12 with said server.

1 59. [Original] The system of claim 58, further  
2 comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including within an  
3 application layer said exit program generating said custom  
4 record data.

1     60. [Original]       The system of claim 58, said logic  
2     element further operable responsive to a user variable  
3     requesting a confirmation record for sending to said client  
4     a confirmation record without said custom record data.

1     61. [Original]       The system of claim 58, said  
2     confirmation record including a field defining a pass  
3     through data length, said pass through data including said  
4     confirmation record and said custom record data.

1     62. [Original]       The system of claim 58, said logic  
2     element further operable for appending said custom record  
3     data to said confirmation record.

1     63. [Currently amended] System for operating a client to  
2     establish a network connection with a server, comprising:

3         a first logic element for negotiating environment  
4         parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
5         connection with said server and for receiving from said  
6         server an invitation to submit user variables;

7         a second logic element responsive to sending to said



8 server a user variable requesting a custom confirmation  
9 record for receiving from said server a confirmation  
10 record and custom record data for enabling said client  
11 to engage in subsequent programmable negotiations  
12 directly with said server.

1 64. [Original] The system of claim 63, further  
2 comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including an application  
3 layer within which said logic elements execute.

1 65. [Original] The system of claim 63, further  
2 comprising the step responsive to said invitation to submit  
3 user variables, requesting a confirmation record, and  
4 responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation  
5 record without said custom record data.

1 66. [Original] The system of claim 63, said  
2 confirmation record including a field defining a pass  
3 through data length, said pass through data including said  
4 confirmation record and said custom record data.

1 67. [Original] The system of claim 63, said second  
2 logic element further responsive for receiving said custom  
3 record data appended to said confirmation record.

1     68. [Original]       The system of claim 63, said request  
2     being for a default custom confirmation record, and said  
3     second logic element further operable for receiving from  
4     said server default data in said custom record data.

1     69. [Original]       The system of claim 63, said request  
2     being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request  
3     including a list of one or more predefined information  
4     items, said second logic element further operable for  
5     receiving from said server client defined data in said  
6     custom record data.

1     70. [Original]       The system of claim 69, further  
2     including a logic element for providing to said server a  
3     customer defined exit program for parsing said list to  
4     generate said defined data.

1     71. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2     by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3     executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4     processing a client session request received at a server,  
5     said method steps comprising:

6 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
7 connection-oriented connection with said client;  
  
8 inviting said client to submit user variables to said  
9 server;  
  
10 responsive to receiving at said server a user variable  
11 requesting a custom confirmation record, sending to  
12 said client a confirmation record and custom record  
13 data enabling said client to engage in subsequent  
14 programmable negotiations directly with said server.

1 72. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing  
3 within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

1 73. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said method steps further comprising, responsive to a user  
3 variable requesting a confirmation record, sending to said  
4 client a confirmation record without said custom record  
5 data.

1 74. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said confirmation record including a field defining a pass

3 through data length, said pass through data including said  
4 confirmation record and said custom record data.

1 75. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step of appending  
3 said custom record data to said confirmation record.

1 76. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said request being for a default custom confirmation record,  
3 and said method steps further comprising the step of sending  
4 to said client default data in said custom record data.

1 77. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,  
2 said request being for a defined custom confirmation record,  
3 said request including a list of one or more predefined  
4 information items, and said method steps further comprising  
5 the step of sending to said client defined data in said  
6 custom record data.

1 78. [Original] The program storage device of claim 77,  
2 said sending step including executing a customer defined  
3 exit program on said list to generate said defined data.

1 79. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74,

2     said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a device  
4     allocated by a host server.

1     80.   [Original]     The program storage device of claim 74,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or  
4     printer device allocated by a host server.

1     81.   [Original]     The program storage device of claim 74,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated  
4     device linked to a current session by a host.

1     82.   [Original]     The program storage device of claim 74,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical  
4     location for receiving output.

1     83.   [Original]     The program storage device of claim 74,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying system  
4     security level and password encryption requirements.

1       84. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 74,  
2       said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3       in said custom record data indicia identifying another  
4       device for retrying a rejected request.

1       85. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 74,  
2       said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3       in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for  
4       a failed auto-signon request.

1       86. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 74,  
2       said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3       in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for  
4       denial of session connection request upon system overload  
5       and redirection to an alternate time or host.

1       87. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 74,  
2       said method steps further comprising the step of providing  
3       in said custom record data indicia identifying custom  
4       information for interpretation by said client.

1       88. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable  
2       by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3       executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4 operating a client to establish a network connection with a  
5 server, said method steps comprising:

6 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a  
7 connection-oriented connection of said client with said  
8 server;

9 receiving at said client from said server an invitation  
10 to submit user variables;

11 responsive to sending to said server a user variable  
12 requesting a custom confirmation record, receiving at  
13 said client from said server a confirmation record and  
14 custom record data enabling said client to engage in  
15 subsequent programmable negotiations directly with said  
16 server.

1 89. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing  
3 within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

1 90. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step, responsive to  
3 said invitation to submit user variables, of requesting a

4 confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from  
5 said server a confirmation record without said custom record  
6 data.

1 91. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said confirmation record including a field defining a pass  
3 through data length, said pass through data including said  
4 confirmation record and said custom record data.

1 92. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3 said custom record data appended to said confirmation  
4 record.

1 93. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said request being for a default custom confirmation record,  
3 and said method steps further comprising the step of  
4 receiving from said server default data in said custom  
5 record data.

1 94. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,  
2 said request being for a defined custom confirmation record,  
3 said request including a list of one or more predefined  
4 information items, said method steps further comprising the



5 step of receiving from said server client defined data in  
6 said custom record data.

1 95. [Original] The method of claim 94, further  
2 including the step of providing to said server a customer  
3 defined exit program for parsing said list to generate said  
4 defined data.

1 96. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3 in said custom record data indicia identifying a device  
4 allocated by a host server.

1 97. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3 in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or  
4 printer device allocated by a host server.

1 98. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91,  
2 said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3 in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated  
4 device linked to a current session by a host.

1 99. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91,

2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical  
4     location for receiving output.

1     100. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying system  
4     security level and password encryption requirements.

1     101. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying another  
4     device for retrying a rejected request.

1     102. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for  
4     a failed auto-signon request.

1     103. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for  
4     denial of session connection request upon system overload  
5     and redirection to an alternate time or host.

1     104. [Original]       The program storage device of claim 91,  
2     said method steps further comprising the step of receiving  
3     in said custom record data indicia identifying custom  
4     information for interpretation by said client.

1     105. [Currently amended] A computer program product ~~or~~  
2     ~~computer program element~~ for operating a server in a network  
3     ~~according to method steps~~ comprising:

4             a storage medium;

5             first program instructions for negotiating environment  
6             parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
7             connection of said server with a client;

8             second program instructions for inviting said client to  
9             submit user variables to said server;

10            third program instructions responsive to said server  
11            receiving a user variable requesting a custom  
12            confirmation record, for sending to said client a  
13            confirmation record and custom record data enabling  
14            said client to engage in subsequent programmable

15        negotiations directly with said server; and wherein  
16        said first, second, and third program instructions are  
17        recorded on said medium.

1        106. [Currently amended] A computer program product ~~or~~  
2        ~~computer program element~~ for operating a client in a network  
3        ~~according to method steps~~ comprising:

4        a program storage medium;

5        first program instructions for negotiating environment  
6        parameters for establishing a connection-oriented  
7        connection of said client with ~~said server~~ a server;

8        second program instructions for receiving from said  
9        server at said client an invitation to submit user  
10       variables;

11       third program instructions responsive to sending to  
12       said server a user variable requesting a custom  
13       confirmation record, for receiving at said client from  
14       said server a confirmation record and custom record  
15       data enabling said client to engage in subsequent

16       programmable negotiations directly with said server;  
17       and wherein

18       said first, second, and third program instructions are  
19       recorded on said medium.